



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

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Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

History Hikes with a New Twist

In September, the Oberlin Heritage Center will host a four-part series of history walks with a twist, that is, of the lemon or lime variety. “History Hikes & Happy Hour” will be offered Wednesday afternoons, September 4, 11, 18 and 25, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Each approximately 90- minute guided walking tour features a different theme and route, followed by an optional gathering at a local watering hole. “History Walks give participants a chance to stretch their legs and get their blood pumping,” explained Liz Schultz, the Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator. Afterward the group can relax in a more casual atmosphere to chat further with each other and ask questions ‘off the record’ about local history. It should be a fun way to re-charge in the midst of a busy work week.

Participants will register for the entire series, which will include:

- September 4 – **Scholars and Settlers**. Start at the core of Oberlin and hear the fascinating stories of triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square.
- September 11 – **Freedom’s Friends**. This walk is about the beginnings of Oberlin College’s race-blind admissions policy and the community events that marked Oberlin as one of the most radical abolitionist towns in the nation and a major station on the Underground Railroad.
- September 18 – **Soldiers & Civilians**. Continue the story of the fight for freedom in this history walk about the war front and home front during the Civil War. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Battle of Gettysburg.
- September 25 – **Radicals & Reformers**. Experience the peaceful scenery of Westwood Cemetery while hearing about some of the many Oberlinians who pushed social and political boundaries and who were less-than-peaceful about expressing their ideas of what was right and proper.

The cost for the series is \$30 for all four guided walks (\$25 for OHC members); each participant covers his or her own happy hour tab. Advance reservations are encouraged as group size will be limited. To register, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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